

QUADRENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

Board of Young People's Work

TO THE

General Conference

OF THE

Methodist Protestant Church

May 1, 1924 to April 30, 1928

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Rev. A. G. Dixon, D. D., Liberty, N. C.
 Rev. Leonard B. Smith, D. D., Wilmington, Del.
 Rev. Roy I. Farmer, Clinton, Conn.
 *Mr. Robert Rawsthorne, Pittsburgh, Pa.
 Mr. A. C. Rogers, Speigner, Ala.
 **Mr. C. A. Dunkerley, Beaver Falls, Pa.
 Rev. Thos. H. Lewis, DD., LL. D., Ex Officio
 Rev. Lawrence Little, General Secretary

GENERAL SECRETARIES

Rev. Charles H. Hubbell, D. D.	1908-1914
Rev. Harlan L. Feeman, D. D., LL. D.	1914-1917
Rev. A. G. Dixon, D. D.	1917-1922
Rev. E. A. Sexsmith, D. D.	1922-1926
Rev. Lawrence Little	1926
* Resigned 1925	** Elected to succeed Robert Rawsthorne

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS OF THE METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND OVERHEAD EXPENSES FOR THE QUADRENNIUM ENDED
APRIL 30th, 1928

	Year Ended April 30th 1925	Year Ended April 30th 1926	Year Ended April 30th 1927	Year Ended April 30th 1928	Totals
Income					
Easter Offerings—Net.....	\$23,144.68	\$29,755.35	\$22,307.60	\$25,276.83	\$100,984.66
Budget Distribution.....	13,846.70	14,630.15	10,734.42	7,716.16	46,927.43
Specials and Undesignated.....	1,794.96	1,842.78	4,518.99	2,683.27	10,840.00
Special Campaign.....	1,721.57	396.00	131.50	2.00	2,251.07
Million Dollar Fund Distribution.....	15.91				15.91
Interest Received.....	133.25	595.59	435.85	204.25	1,368.94
Bequests.....	47.50	821.09	250.00	100.00	1,218.59
Consideration for Quit Claim Deed.....			50.00		50.00
Rent (Net) 506 Montgomery Street, Montgomery, Alabama.....	354.74	534.38			889.12
Rent (Net) Indianapolis Apartments.....	487.96				487.96
Rent (Net) Barwick, Pennsylvania, Church.....	115.00				115.00
Rent (Net) Fort Worth, Texas Property.....		100.00			100.00
Sale of Waste Paper.....				3.38	3.38
	<u>\$41,662.27</u>	<u>\$48,675.34</u>	<u>\$38,928.56</u>	<u>\$35,985.89</u>	<u>\$165,252.06</u>
Overhead Expense					
Secretary's Salary.....	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
Office Salaries.....	1,080.85	1,022.50	900.00	991.67	3,995.02
Office Rent.....	264.00	260.00	300.00	300.00	1,124.00
Stationery and Supplies.....	432.78	101.60	53.13	102.01	689.52
Telegrams.....	64.09	28.64			92.73
Telephone.....	48.00	33.70	43.17	50.45	175.32
General Expense.....	821.28	993.96	355.25	580.03	2,750.52
Travelling Expense—Secretary.....	477.90	608.30	692.58	617.77	2,396.55
Board Meeting Expense (Net).....	292.44	548.06	180.41	395.89	1,416.80
	<u>\$ 6,481.34</u>	<u>\$ 6,596.76</u>	<u>\$ 5,524.54</u>	<u>\$ 6,037.82</u>	<u>\$ 24,640.46</u>
Ratio of Overhead Expenses to Income.....	<u>15.56%</u>	<u>13.55%</u>	<u>14.19%</u>	<u>16.78%</u>	<u>14.91%</u>

On account of the very serious illness of his wife, Dr. Sexsmith was forced to resign his position, and he was succeeded on May 10, 1926, by Rev. Lawrence Little, of Greensboro, N. C., who is the present incumbent.

II. CONSTANT GROWTH OF THE WORK OF THE BOARD

The duties of the Board of Young People's Work are not very clearly defined by the Constitution of the Methodist Protestant Church. The duties of the Executive Secretary are outlined as follows: "It shall be the duty of the Executive Secretary to work under the direction of the Board. He shall conduct the correspondence, visit the Annual Conferences, Churches, Sunday schools and Christian Endeavor societies in the interest of the organization, and to increase the efficiency of their work. He shall organize Conference Young People's Unions, local Christian Endeavor societies and Sunday schools. He shall report annually to the Board and to each General Conference."

From such a meager conception of the task of this Board in the beginning of its work, its activities have broadened and enlarged in their scope until there are now several well-organized Departments with volunteer or part-time Directors and, besides the Executive Secretary, there are two full-time employed workers on the Headquarters staff.

Originally, the responsibilities of the Board might well have been defined as "Young People's Work" but in the present enlarged program, this term can hardly be considered accurate. The Board of Young People's Work is now responsible for the organization and promotion of the entire Religious Educational program of the denomination as it relates to the local church through the Sunday School, Christian Endeavor Society, Vacation Church School, Weekday Religious Education, Leadership Training, Summer Conferences, Institutes, Schools of Methods, Stewardship and Missionary Education for the Children's and Young People's Divisions, Vocational Guidance, Conventions, the Enlistment and Guidance of Life-Work Recruits, and various other phases of Children's, Young People's, and Adult Work.

BRIEF COMPARISON OF DETAIL

Some idea of the constant expansion of the responsibilities of the Board may be gained from a brief study of tabulated details connected with the office of the Executive Secretary. Only a few items are included for the purpose of this comparison:

	For the Year Ending May 1:			
	1925	1926	1927	1928
Miles traveled by the Executive Secretary -----	17,619	18,543	25,460	31,864
Addresses Made by the Executive Secretary -----	240	225	215	220
Letters and Packages Addressed and Mailed ----	4,914	3,000	8,777	17,334
Secretary's Travel Expense--	\$710.12	\$757.47	\$1,059.82	\$1,139.60
Printing and Literature-----	256.49	611.15	168.33	878.30

It is rather significant that the Executive Secretary of the Board has never found it possible to take a vacation. Each of the former secretaries, because of the many duties always crowding in for attention, never found it possible to be away from the office except for trips in the field in connection with the regular duties of the office. The present secretary has hoped to be able to take a brief period for rest and recreation but has not been

I. HISTORICAL STATEMENT

The following Historical Statement, copied from the Report to General Conference in May, 1924, contains some items of general interest and is included here for information.

"The Board of Young People's Work was organized at the Pittsburgh General Conference in May, 1908, and Rev. Charles Hubbell, D. D., of saintly memory, was elected its first General Secretary. This Board, composed of Rev. G. W. Haddaway, D.D., President; Rev. C. D. Sinkinson, D. D., Mr. Robert Rawsthorne, Jr., Mr. W. N. Swift, and Dr. Hubbell, was given the privilege of going out and making a place for this Department of our church life in the denomination.

Money was borrowed to launch the undertaking and, for seven years, Dr. Hubbell traveled throughout the church, a perfect ray of sunshine and hope, pouring his very life into this God-given mission of uplift to the children and young people of the church. His faith in God and in humanity was so great that he seemed never to have had a doubt that the project would succeed even beyond the expectations of those who joined so heartily with him in launching the enterprise.

He laughed at difficulties and smiled his way into the hearts of Methodist Protestants everywhere. His name is still a household word among Methodist Protestants, and he is still familiarly known as "Sunshine Hubbell." He knew no defeat—hence he accomplished the "impossible" and made a place for the Board of Young People's Work in the Methodist Protestant Church which would rejoice his heart today were he living to see the place it now occupies.

After the death of Dr. Hubbell, Rev. Harlan Luther Feeman, D. D., LL. D., was elected Secretary of the Board, in 1914, and served faithfully and successfully until the summer of 1917, when he was called to the presidency of Adrian College. He was getting the same hold upon the hearts and lives of the young people of the church as did Dr. Hubbell, but felt constrained to yield to the call of the church to another position in the field of Christian Education.

At the resignation of Dr. Feeman, Rev. A. G. Dixon, D. D., was chosen to fill this important office on July 10, 1917, and faithfully served the church in this capacity until the General Conference at Greensboro, N. C., in May, 1920, when he was reelected. He then enlarged the plans of work and gave to the church a most excellent administration. Under his wise leadership the work grew in every phase of its activity, finding a still larger place in the hearts of the people and developing into a real training force for the leaders of our young people. In November, 1922, he was elected President of the North Carolina Conference, of which he was an honored member, this making necessary his resignation."

On the first of January, 1923, Rev. E. A. Sexsmith, D. D., who had served a number of years as a successful pastor and leader of young people in the Maryland Conference and who was at that time the President of the Board of Young People's Work, was elected General Secretary. Under his leadership the work expanded rapidly and several new phases of the work were undertaken. A remarkable advance was made particularly in the leadership training program as conducted in Summer Conferences and Institutes. Throughout the entire denomination his forceful personality and keen insight into the educational task of the church became increasingly a factor in the forward march of the denominational work.

III. SUMMARIZED ACCOUNT OF ACTIVITIES

The work of the Board of Young People's Work is promotional, educational and inspirational. It is therefore exceedingly difficult to make a complete record of its activities. This report will attempt only a summary of the many phases of the work now being carried forward.

1. Department of Children's Work

The Department of Children's Work, under the able leadership of Mrs. H. W. Maier, is perhaps the best organized and most efficiently conducted Department of the Board. For nearly ten years, Mrs. Maier has served the denomination as Director of this Department on a part-time basis. She has developed the Department in a remarkable way and has given herself untiringly to her task. Her leadership is recognized not only throughout our denomination but, in the many activities of the International Council of Religious Education embracing most of the evangelical denominations in the United States and Canada, she has made a distinct place for herself. She has made a large contribution to the work of the Kingdom through her keen insight into the needs of a developing and expanding program of Religious Education and has assisted in a large way to develop such a program for our own church. For a number of years, Mrs. Maier has felt that the duties of the Department have grown until a full-time Director is necessary if the responsibilities of the denomination are to be met in any adequate fashion.

A complete report of this Department for the Quadrennium has been made by the Director and is appended hereto.

2. Other Departments

In addition to the Department of Children's Work, the Board has the following organized Departments: Young People's Work, Adult Work, Leadership Training, Rural Church Work, Vacation and Weekday Church Schools, Missionary Education and Stewardship. The Board has not been in position to employ Directors for these departments and all of them have been administered by voluntary Directors. Many of the details of each department have been handled by the office of the Executive Secretary. Special mention should be made of the following Directors who have given valuable time to the development of the departments entrusted to them: Rev. J. N. Link, Director of Young People's Work; Rev. E. D. Stone, D.D., Director of Adult Work; Prof. M. J. Shroyer, Director of Rural Church Work, and Rev. R. W. White, Director of Teacher Training.

3. Vacation and Weekday Schools

There has been no phase of the work of the Protestant Church that has been more significant and that promises greater results than the Vacation and Weekday Church Schools, thousands of which are being held in every section of the world. Our own church has made little progress in Weekday Religious Education, only a very few attempts having been made to put on anything like an adequate program of weekday education. A start has been made, however, in a few centers and some of our churches are cooperating with other agencies in this field.

In the Vacation Church School field, however, we have made some progress. By action of the Board in May, 1927, a Department of Vacation and Weekday Church Schools was added, a Director to be secured if and when funds were available for this purpose. During the season of 1927, Mrs. H. W. Maier assisted the Executive Secretary in the work of this department by preparing promotional material, selecting curriculum material, and in the conduct of a Workers' Institute for Vacation Church School leaders.

able to do so because of the heavy demands made upon him by the work in the field and the many details that had to be handled upon his return to the office. With the ever increasing correspondence from our churches and leaders who seek assistance from the office of the Board, it has been necessary to add other office assistance from time to time or refuse aid to many who seek it at the hands of the Board.

ADDITIONAL WORKERS

Conscious of the ever enlarging opportunities in the work of enlisting and training our future leadership, the Board has made provision for additional workers just as fast as funds could be provided for this purpose. Nearly ten years ago, a Director of Children's Work was employed on a part-time basis, in the person of Mrs. H. W. Maier. Mrs. Maier has given of herself increasingly to the development of this department and brings to this General Conference the best report of her long term of service.

In May, 1927, the Board authorized the employment of a full-time Office Assistant. Miss Bettie S. Brittingham, of Salisbury, Md., was secured for this position and has proved her usefulness not only in her ability to handle the routine of the office, but capably handles many executive duties in the absence of the Executive Secretary. She is a graduate in the Department of Religious Education of Lucy Webb Hayes National Training School, Washington, D. C., and brings to her task not only a splendid background of theoretical training but also an abiding interest in the entire cause of Christian education. It is her hope that she may soon arrange to pursue graduate studies in the field of Religious Education and to more perfectly prepare herself for Christian leadership.

In a meeting of the Board held in Washington, December 1, 1927, after a discussion of the enlarging opportunities and increasing responsibilities of our denominational program of Religious Education, the Board authorized the employment of another additional worker in the position of Associate Secretary. Rev. F. L. Gibbs, of Burlington, N. C., an ordained minister of the North Carolina Conference, was selected for this place.

Mr. Gibbs brings to his work an adequate preparation and an earnest consecration to the program of the Kingdom. He received his Master's Degree in the Department of Religious Education at Elon College in 1926, and his S. T. B. Degree from Westminster Theological Seminary, May 8, 1928. Until his graduation from the Seminary, he gave only part time to the work of our Board in connection with his studies at the Seminary, but plans to give his full time to the work after that time. He has conducted a number of rallies in the North Carolina, Maryland, and West Virginia Conferences, and very enthusiastic reports have been received from these Meetings.

As a representative of our denomination, Mr. Gibbs attended the meetings of the Young People's Work Professional Advisory Section of the International Council of Religious Education held in Chicago, February 9-11, 1928, and secured for our denomination very valuable material in the field of Young People's Work.

A statistical report of his activities for the period December 1, 1927, to May 1, 1928, shows the following:

Miles Traveled -----	6,750
Addresses Made -----	45
Rallies Conducted -----	9
Letters Written -----	185

The denomination is most fortunate in securing such a capable and consecrated leader for its work, and we may expect a significant advance in the Departments of the work entrusted to his care.

It is just as applicable to the worker in Religious Education today as ever it was to the young Timothy of long ago.

There are many workers in our denomination who cannot take advantage of our regular Standard Leadership Training Course and who cannot attend our Summer Conferences and Leadership Schools. Yet they are anxious to secure all the training possible for their important task. For such persons, an extensive Reading Course has been arranged and has been made available to all our workers without cost to them. The course lists the best books in all phases of Religious Education, requires the reading of at least five good books each year, and awards a Certificate upon completion of the course. Quite a large number of our leaders in various parts of the denomination are taking advantage of this opportunity for better equipping themselves for their tasks in their local churches.

7. Circulating Library

"A Good Workman Needs Good Tools." Surely this applies to no class of workmen more truly than to the great host of leaders in the educational work of the church. We have felt that one of the reasons why many of our workers are not more effective is that they cannot afford to purchase a sufficient library for their needs. With the hope of assisting in this way, the Board has launched a Circulating Library for the use of all members of the Methodist Protestant Church who may care to avail themselves of its privileges.

The Library lists the most up-to-date books in all phases of Religious Education and Church Work and has at the disposal of its members more than 500 volumes. The books are loaned upon the payment of a small membership fee, which is used to replace worn books and to purchase new ones, and without any additional cost except the return postage on books after they have been read. The wide use which has already been made of this Library is significant of an even greater service in the future. Additional volumes are being added constantly, and it is expected that the members of the Library will be considerably increased in number as wider publicity is given to its features.

8. Editorial Assistance

Upon the invitation of Dr. Crates S. Johnson, Editor of our Sunday School Publications, our office has undertaken during the Quadrennium the writing of an article for each lesson in the *Teacher's Journal* for teachers of Young People's Classes, offering suggestions for presenting the lesson to young people. This has given our office an opportunity to render genuine service to the church and also offers a means of contact with our teachers and leaders of young people's classes throughout the denomination. We believe that there should be developed a means of closer correlation and integration of the work being done by the Board of Young People's Work and by the Board of Publication, especially in the field of the Sunday School Literature.

9. Organization of Conference Unions

Believing that our Board could better serve the church by establishing and maintaining a close contact with the leadership of the various conference groups, it has been our plan to keep in close touch with the various Annual Conference Young People's Unions and Boards of Young People's Work. In a large number of our Conferences such Union had never been organized. Upon the suggestion of the Executive Secretary, several Annual Conferences have taken direct action providing such a leadership for their Religious Educational activities. We now have regularly organized Boards or Unions in at least 22 of our 26 Annual Conference Districts. The Executive Secretary has attended meetings of the leaders of nearly all of these Conference Unions and maintains a close contact with all of them by correspondence as well as by occasional personal visitations.

The number of Vacation Church Schools conducted by Methodist Protestant churches has more than quadrupled each year during this quadrennium. It is safe to say that this would become a generally recognized agency of most of our churches if more attention could be given to the development of the department. Many requests have come in for information and for actual assistance in the setting up of new schools. The Executive Secretary has prepared and distributed to all who have requested it a booklet, "The Vacation Church School in Methodist Protestant Churches," in which suggestions are given for organization, promotion, and conduct of vacation church schools. A number of model schools will be held this season in connection with our Young People's Conferences and Leadership Training Schools, and in these expert assistance will be given to those who desire guidance in this phase of their work. It is hoped that a Director of this Department may be added before the season of 1929 and that our churches in largely increased numbers may take advantage of the great opportunities for character building and for religious nurture afforded in Vacation and Weekday Schools of Religion.

4. Standards for Sunday Schools and Christian Endeavor Societies

There has been rather a general demand for some definite standards for various phases of religious educational work in our churches throughout the denomination. To satisfy this demand, standards have been prepared for both the Sunday School and the Christian Endeavor Society.

Early in 1925, a Christian Endeavor Society Standards Chart was prepared, printed and distributed throughout the field. This chart was modeled after a chart published by the United Society of Christian Endeavor but was adapted to our own denominational needs. It was arranged under six headings, emphasizing six important phases of our Christian Endeavor Society work, namely, Worship, Information, Fellowship, Organization, Recreation, and Service. There has been a wide commendation of this chart throughout our entire territory and it has been of great value to our workers in bringing their Christian Endeavor work up to a desired level of efficiency.

During the winter of 1926, a set of "Minimum Standards for Methodist Protestant Sunday Schools" was prepared and distributed. These standards set forth the ideals of the Board in Graded Organization, Promotional Work, and Equipment. In connection with these Minimum Standards, wide use has been made of the "Proposed International Standard for the Church School," published by the International Council of Religious Education and used by all the leading denominations throughout the country. Perhaps one of the most valuable services rendered by our Board to our denominational leaders has been in the suggestions offered to workers who are making an honest effort to do a standard type of religious educational work. Hundreds of requests have come for information upon all phases of church school activity and these requests have all been handled as carefully and promptly as possible. There is a distinct need for a great variety of printed material in this field which cannot be provided with the present resources of the Board.

5. Organizing Literature

The Board has regularly supplied to all churches requesting it organizing literature for Sunday Schools and Christian Endeavor Societies. During the Quadrennium, perhaps 400 new Christian Endeavor Societies have been organized with literature supplied from our office. A number of Sunday Schools have been helped to secure a better type of literature because of information furnished. These supplies have been furnished free of cost to applicants.

6. Reading Courses

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed" was no idle admonition on the part of the great Apostle.

rennium has been held biennially. The last one held in Mount Vernon, Ohio, was not as largely attended as was hoped but the delegates were well distributed as to Conferences, there being 15 Annual Conferences represented. The program was one of the best the denomination has had. Plans were made to hold another such convention in connection with the Denominational Assembly in 1926 but it was postponed when the Assembly failed to materialize because of the illness of the President of the General Conference.

Perhaps no single event in the history of the denomination has created a more general interest than the Centennial Convention which will be held in Hampden Methodist Protestant Church, May 10-15, 1928. At this writing, May 1, more than 4,000 advance registrations have already been received with large numbers coming in every mail. It is expected that more than 5,000 registrations will be received before the close of the convention.

The personnel of the Convention program includes more than fifty of the outstanding leaders not only of our own denomination but of many of the other leading denominations throughout the country. On this program there has been provided a number of unusual features: Departmental Conferences for each department of the Sunday school, to be led by outstanding specialists in each field; a Christian Endeavor conference to be led by the General Secretary of the International Society; a number of Discussion Groups on Evangelism, Christian Citizenship, and World Peace, as phases of the CRUSADE WITH CHRIST; a Centennial Project bringing together an extensive exhibit of various denominational activities; a pageant presenting "Our Methodist Protestant Family in Baltimore;" a presentation by representative college students of youth's attitude toward the church; platform addresses by prominent leaders, and many other helpful and interesting features.

13. Christmas Program

Under the direction of the Budget Council, the Executive Secretary of the Board of Young People's Work has assumed the responsibility of preparing a special Christmas Program for the use of our churches throughout the denomination. About 3,000 sample copies of this program were distributed each year. Publicity was given by means of letters to pastors and Sunday School superintendents and by letters to the church papers. Orders were filled from the office of the Board and reports were secured from those who observed the special day.

The amount of the offerings received by Churches using this special program and remitting same to the General Conference Treasurer for credit on the General Conference Budget was as follows:

1925	-----	\$3,394.15
1926	-----	4,866.84

A complete report of the 1927 offering is not yet available.

These offerings were applied to the General Conference Budget and not to the account of the Board of Young People's Work. Hence the handling of this program was an extra service rendered the denomination by the Board, a service which was not required by the General Conference and which could not properly be considered a part of the regular activities of the Board.

14. Summer Conferences and Institutes

One indication of the rapid growth of the activities of the Board of Young People's Work during the last few years has been the constantly increasing interest in the attendance upon the series of Summer Conferences, Institutes, Schools of Methods, and Leadership Training Schools held under its auspices. In 1923, the last year of the previous quadrennium, only 5 standard one-week Summer Conferences were held in the entire denomina-

The office of the Board has had the finest possible cooperation from all of these Conference Boards and Unions. In every instance, their officers have willingly followed our leadership and have been most cordial in their efforts to take our program to each local church. Much of the credit for the splendid condition of our work throughout the field is due not so much to the employed staff of the Board as to the splendid cooperation of the young people who are leading their respective conference districts. Their whole-hearted support and cooperation will mean much to the future of our denominational program.

10. Annual Conference Visitation

Under the direction of the Budget Council, the Executive Secretary has visited a large number of Annual Conferences each year in the interests of the General Conference program. In each instance, the work of the denomination was presented to the Conference and, in most cases, one or more special addresses were made on the several phases of the work committed to our Board. Personal contacts were made with pastors and other church workers which have enabled us to more successfully promote our program throughout the church field.

11. Efficiency Campaign

As a means of closer cooperation and wider fellowship among our various Annual Conference Boards of Young People's Work and Young People's Unions of the denomination, and in order that they might have a definite program for their activities, our Board launched early in 1926 an EFFICIENCY CAMPAIGN to last for the year from October 1, 1926, to September 30, 1927. A Quarterly Report was requested from each Conference Union, covering the entire campaign. These reports enabled the Executive Secretary to come into closer contact with the accomplishments and the problems of the various sections of the denominational territory.

The Efficiency Campaign emphasized the following ten objectives:

1. COMPLETE ORGANIZATION of the Conference Union, with all the necessary Officers, Committees, and Superintendents of Departments, with Executive Committee Meetings at least annually.

2. QUARTERLY REPORTS by the Union covering the work done during the Quarter and the general condition of the work throughout the conference territory.

3. STANDARD SUNDAY SCHOOLS reaching the "Minimum Standards" outlined by the Board.

4. NEW CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SOCIETIES to be organized by the Union and within its territory.

5. STANDARD CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SOCIETIES reaching the Standards outlined on the Denominational Standards Chart supplied by the Board.

6. A YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE or Leadership Training School or both, held within the area of the Union during the year.

7. TEACHER TRAINING CLASSES in the largest possible number of churches within the territory of the Union.

8. READING COURSES pursued by the largest possible number of workers within the territory.

9. VACATION CHURCH SCHOOLS conducted in the largest possible number of churches within the territory

10. OBSERVANCE OF THE SPECIAL DAYS, designated by the General Conference, namely, Easter, Children's Day, Rally Day, and Christmas, with offerings to the General Conference Budget.

12. Young People's Convention

One of the features of our work that has attracted quite a general interest has been our Young People's Convention, which until this quad-

1. Vocational Guidance
2. The Life of Jesus
3. Young People's Methods
4. Principles of Christian Living
5. Denominational History and Program
6. The Science of Leadership.
7. How We Got the Bible
8. Recreational Leadership
9. Stewardship
10. Christian Citizenship
11. Evangelism
12. A Study of the Bible.

For older young people and especially those who wish to prepare for Christian leadership in the church, Sunday School, and other agencies of Religious Education, units of the Standard Leadership Curriculum are offered.

16. Religious Education Advisory Council

For a number of years it has been felt that a meeting of the various leaders of our Conference Young People's Unions in the Methodist Protestant Church should be arranged in order that the denominational program might be planned and that all leaders might become properly informed as to their responsibilities and opportunities. Such a meeting was postponed from year to year because of lack of funds for travel expense. With the aid of appropriations from a number of Conference Unions, however, the necessary finances were provided and such a meeting was called, meeting in Rhode Island Avenue Church, Washington, D. C., December 1-2, 1927.

Twenty-seven representatives from the following Conference Unions were in attendance: Alabama, Eastern, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Onondaga and Pittsburgh. Five of the six members of the Board of Young People's Work were also in attendance.

This meeting was devoted to a careful study of the denominational program of Leadership Training, Summer Conferences, the Centennial Convention, and other phases of Religious Education. It was unanimously agreed that the meeting was one of the most significant ever held in the denomination for a similar purpose. Upon motion of the body, the Board of Young People's Work was petitioned to authorize the formation of a permanent RELIGIOUS EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL to meet at least annually for the purpose of a closer study of the entire field of Religious Education and of more closely integrating the work of the denomination in this field. The Council passed a resolution concerning the financial needs of the Board of Young People's Work, which will be presented in the proper manner at some time during the sessions of the General Conference.

17. Crusade With Christ

At the International Christian Endeavor Convention, held in Cleveland, Ohio, in July, 1927, a great movement to be known as a "Crusade with Christ" was launched after an address under this title by President Daniel A. Poling. This crusade has been endorsed by most of the Protestant youth agencies in the United States and Canada and more than twenty million young people will be reached with the message of the crusade.

The Crusade with Christ has three major objectives: Evangelism, Christian Citizenship, and World Peace. The possibilities of the combined efforts of all Protestant young people in America in these three great fields, if the church can be aroused to its opportunities, are tremendous. For the first time in the history of the Protestant Church in America, all denominations are through their young people's agencies striking across denominational barriers and prejudices and are enlisting under Christ in a great Crusade.

tion. It was possible for the Executive Secretary to attend all of these for their entire time and to supervise their programs. During the present quadrennium, the number of these meetings has doubled and, during the season of 1928, will quadruple the number held in any year of the preceding quadrennium. It will be impossible for the Executive Secretary to visit more than half of the ones arranged for the coming season. The comparative growth of this phase of our work during the last three years is shown in the accompanying table:

	1925	1926	1927
Number of Summer Conferences held-----	12	11	16
Total number of students enrolled-----	1219	1232	1616
Total attendance, including visitors-----	2641	3562	5690
Total number of Graduates-----	----	27	71
Life Work Recruits Enrolled-----	86	64	72
Christian Worker's Covenants signed-----	257	393	414

Definite arrangements have already been made for 21 such Summer Conferences and Leadership Training Schools for the coming season. The schedule follows:

Conference	Place	Dates
Denominational-----	Westminster, Md.-----	June 5-16
Alabama-----	Robison Springs-----	July 30-Aug. 5
Arkansas-----	Warnock Springs-----	July 23-29
Eastern-----	South Seaville-----	August 13-19
Fort Smith—Oklahoma-----	Cedarville, Ark.-----	August 13-19
Georgia-----	Waco-----	August 20-25
Illinois-----	Petersburg-----	June 25-July 1
Indiana-----	Marion-----	June 25-July 1
Iowa—Missouri-----	Bussey-----	August 6-11
Kansas-----	Pawnee Station-----	June 18-24
Louisiana-----	Pollock-----	June 4-10
Maryland-----	Westminster-----	July 30-Aug. 5
Michigan-----	Gull Lake-----	August 20-26
Missouri-----	Fordland-----	June 25-July 1
Mississippi-----	Pineville-----	July 2-8
North Carolina-----	High Point-----	July 14-21
Ohio-----	Sabina-----	August 13-19
Onondaga-----	Lycoming-----	August 6-9
Pittsburgh-----	Waynesburg-----	July 16-22
Texas-----	Tehuacana-----	August 20-26
West Virginia-----	Bridgeport-----	July 9-15

No effort has been made in the past to put any of the courses offered in these Summer Conferences on the level of the International Standard Leadership Training Curriculum, nor had any effort been made to launch a Denominational Standard Leadership School. Arrangements have been made for offering units of the Standard Leadership Training Curriculum in each of the conferences to be held during 1928. In addition to these opportunities, a Standard Leadership School will be held at the Seminary, June 5-16, in which only the highest type of training will be offered. The International Council of Religious Education will give credit for the work that will be offered in our schools during the coming season. We have been unable to meet the requirements for this credit in the past.

15. Leadership Training Courses

As offered in our Leadership Training Schools and Summer Conferences, the Board has two distinct courses of training: one for young people under eighteen years of age, and another for leaders over that age. For the younger group, we have what is known as "The Young People's Training Course," consisting of twelve units as follows:

never come so long as we depend entirely upon the present adult generation. If ever we are to have an adequately financed church, a church with efficiently trained and capable leadership, and with a constituency that will dare to follow the vision of the Master as given to the leaders of His cause, we **MUST** enlist and train our young people. Our Board is eager to face its opportunities in this field. But we cannot go forward even with the program already launched unless we may have additional workers and a more adequate budget. We are confident that this General Conference will do its utmost to provide for this need.

With deep gratitude to God for His manifold blessings during the Quadrennium, for His guidance and strength in all the problems and responsibilities connected with our tasks, and facing to the future with an earnest prayer that He may more abundantly use all of us—pastors, leaders, young people—in His great plan of Salvation for all men, we respectfully submit this report.

THE BOARD OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK.

A. G. DIXON, *President*,

LAWRENCE LITTLE, *Executive Secretary*.

REPORT OF INVESTED FUND—BOARD OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK

RECEIPTS

Balance in bank, April 30, 1924	\$ 164.95
From Secretary's Expense Fund	200.00
From Sale of U. S. Liberty Bonds	9,307.84
Interest on Bonds to April 30, 1928	1,674.57
Total Receipts	\$11,347.36

DISBURSEMENTS

On Expense of Meeting, Religious Educational Advisory Council, Washington, Dec. 1-2, 1927	190.21
Balance	\$11,157.15

PRESENT ASSETS

Bonds and Savings Certificates

Quantity	Security	Amount
2	City of Oslo, Norway, 6% Gold Bonds, Due May, 1955—\$1,000	\$2,000.00
3	Manufacturers Finance Company 10-Year 6% Coll. Trust Notes "A," Due April 1, 1935—\$1,000	3,000.00
1	Sun Mortgage Company, First Mort. Guar. Certificate, 5½%, Due May 27, 1928	3,300.00
1	Continental Mortgage Company, First Mortgage Coll. Gold Bond, 5¼%, Due September, 1937	1,000.00
1	Crown Cork and Seal Company, 20-Year 6% Gold Bond, Due Dec. 1, 1947	1,000.00
1	J. Ray Arnold Lumber Co., First Mortgage 6½% Gold Bond, Due Dec. 1, 1937	500.00
1	Certificate of Deposit, Atlantic Bank and Trust Company, Greensboro, N. C.	357.15
Total Assets		\$11,157.15

By official action of the Board of Young People's Work, the Methodist Protestant Church is behind the Crusade and our active cooperation will be given to the enlistment of the young people of all our churches in the objectives of the Crusade. Study courses will be offered in all our Summer Camps and Conferences in Evangelism and Citizenship. Addresses will be given in all of these on the topics named and also on the implications of International Fellowship and World Peace. A Commission is soon to be formed to cooperate with commissions appointed by other denominations and with interdenominational agencies in the promotion of the Crusade. While our financial resources are meager and we shall be unable to organize as we would like to do and as the merits of the program warrant, we shall give our best efforts to the reaching of our entire denominational constituency.

18. Correlation of Educational Interests

For a number of years there has been a rather general feeling that there should be a closer integration and correlation of the religious educational work of the three general Boards engaged in this field, namely, the Board of Education, the Board of Publication, and the Board of Young People's Work. Committees were appointed by all of these Boards to consider the matter, and the Joint Committee met in Baltimore, March 6th, 1928. After a thorough discussion of the problems involved and the possible solutions, it was unanimously decided to recommend to the General Conference the constitution of an EDUCATIONAL COUNCIL, to be composed of members elected by the three Boards interested, the duties of this Council to be the integration and correlation of the religious educational program of the denomination. Recommendations to this effect will be offered to the General Conference at the proper time.

THE FUTURE

Throughout our entire denomination there seems to be nothing but a spirit of optimism in all phases of our work for the youth of the Church. Pastors and people are coming to realize that the church of tomorrow depends absolutely upon the young people of today, that the carrying forward of the Kingdom of Christ cannot advance as it might until we can enlist and train a generation of young people who are too broad in their sympathies, too consecrated in their devotion to the Master, too willing to lose themselves in sacrifice and service to allow anything to come between them and the realization of the ideal of Christ for a world order controlled by Christian principles and ideals. Our adults are slow to respond to the challenge of Jesus and hesitate to throw themselves without reserve into the opportunities of the hour. Our youth are eager for just such a challenge. It remains for the church to capture and utilize their splendid strength and talents.

The Board of Young People's Work has demonstrated its ability to enlarge and expand its program, to take advantage of its opportunities in an ever widening field. It has done this on a budget incomparably smaller in proportion than practically any other denomination making any effort to take care of its religious educational needs. In spite of a lack of financial support, the Board has dared to enlarge its program, to increase its employed staff, to more than double the number of its training schools and other agencies for the preparation of leadership, and to provide facilities for reading and study for every worker in the denomination who seeks this aid. All this we have done in confidence that this General Conference will make it possible for us to go forward even to greater things.

We are keenly conscious of the great lack of financial support of every phase of our denominational program. We know that every agency of the Church is crippled because of the lack of funds with which to carry forward its work. But we believe that the solution to this difficulty will

REPORT DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S WORK

MAY 1st, 1924 TO MAY 1st, 1928

Perhaps in no department of the church's work has there been such rapid progress as there has been in the field of Religious Education. During the past four years, denominations have made rapid advances; training courses have been improved and the training program has been carried into the local churches; lesson courses have been rewritten and revised placing the pupil in the center; the scientific method is used in determining upon policies and programs. Religious education has made remarkable progress in the last four years. The new program in all denominations, however, has demanded that the force of workers be multiplied many times until in many denominations from twenty-five to seventy-five workers are employed to promote the religious educational program for the denominations' childhood. Perhaps no other procession of Kingdom workers has moved forward with greater rapidity than have the men and women who are giving themselves to this ever advancing movement.

As a denomination, in the past four years, we have been slowly moving forward; we have improved our training program; we are effecting better organizations; more of our leaders are becoming interested in the religious education of our childhood; but we are not keeping pace with the rapidly moving progress of other denominational units. Not only one full-time worker employed to promote the welfare of our Children's religious education, but several will be necessary if we are, in any measure at all, going to face up with our denominational obligation. The first task of any home is to care for its own childhood; the first obligation of any denomination is to make adequate provision for the religious education of its children.

While there has been progress in our work, we have scarcely been able to go beneath the surface in the meeting of the needs of our children.

As Director of Children's Work, employed part-time by the Board of Young People's Work, I have attended during the quadrennium 33 Summer Conferences and Schools of Method, three conventions, one Executive Board meeting of the Woman's Home Missionary Society, six Annual Conferences, and seven Branch meetings. During the four years, I traveled 41,000 miles, delivered 52 evening and Sunday addresses, conducted 486 class periods, led 126 Vesper services, 24 morning worship services, directed in 54 recreational periods, attended 85 Faculty meetings, conducted 14 Model Sunday Schools, attended 3 annual sessions of the International Council of Religious Education, attended 13 committee meetings in the interest of the work, wrote 1,073 personal letters, 3,700 form letters and distributed 10,400 pieces of literature and mimeographed outlines. Total number of meetings which I directed or in which I delivered an address, 841; this does not include faculty meetings, personal conferences and business sessions.

Our department offers two definite avenues for training, the first and the one most often taken advantage of is our Leadership Training Schools and the other our Reading Courses. Approximately 850 Children's Division workers are in our Leadership Training Schools each Summer. Our Leadership Training Courses have undergone revision each year during the quadrennium in view of constant improvement; this has taken place each year under the direction of the Children's Work Department.

Each year, we have an increasing number to enroll in our Reading Course; but the number has never been large.

Very commendable advances were made last year in the promotion and the holding of Vacation Church Schools. The preparation of the promotional material, the selection of curriculum materials, a part of the promotional work, and the arranging for and the holding of one Vacation Institute

ATLANTIC BANK & TRUST COMPANY

Capital \$1,250,000.00

Surplus \$650,000.00

GREENSBORO, N. C.

May 4, 1928.

The Board of Young People's Work,
Methodist Protestant Church,
Concord, N. C.

Gentlemen:

At the request of Mr. Lawrence Little, and in his presence, we have examined the contents of our Safety Deposit Box, No. 130, containing securities representing the Invested Funds of your Board, and certify that the following is contained therein:

Quantity	Security	Par Value
2	City of Oslo, Norway, 6%, due May, 1955—1,000.00-----	\$2,000.00
3	Manufacturers Finance Company 10-Year 6% Coll. Trust Notes "A," due April 1st, 1935—\$1,000.00-----	3,000.00
1	Sun Mortgage Company First Mortgage Guar. Certificate 5½%, due May 27, 1928-----	3,300.00
1	Continental Mortgage Company First Mortgage Coll. Gold Bond 5½%, due September, 1937-----	1,000.00
1	Crown Cork & Seal Company 20-Year 6% Gold Bond, due December 1st, 1947 ----- (Temporary certificate)	1,000.00
1	J. Ray Arnold Lumber Company First Mortgage 6½% Gold Bond, due December 1, 1937 -----	500.00
1	Certificate of Deposit, Atlantic Bank & Trust Company, dated May 4, 1928 -----	357.15

Yours very truly,

CLYDE L. TAYLOR,

Assistant Cashier.

CLT.T